

REMARKS

Claims 2, 5, 8, and 10-12 have been canceled. Amended claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 9, and new claims 13-15 are in this application.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. It is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 4, and 7 (from which claims 3, 6, and 9 depend) as presented herein are directed to statutory subject matter. Accordingly, it is requested that this 101 rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,199,069 to Barrett et al. and U.S. Patent No. 4,197,502 to Sumner et al.

Amended independent claim 1 recites in part the following:

"an input/output device operable to send and receive data to and from an external device by using a standard digital interface format;

an encoder operable to encode the data to be sent to the external device;

a decoder operable to decode the received data from the external device;"

It is respectfully submitted that the portions of Barrett and Sumner relied upon by the Examiner do not disclose the above identified features of claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is distinguishable from Barrett and Sumner as applied by the Examiner.

For reasons similar to or somewhat similar to those previously described with regard to claim 1, it is also

respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 4 is distinguishable from Barrett and Sumner as applied by the Examiner.

Claims 3 and 6 are dependent from one of independent claims 1 and 4. Accordingly, it is also respectfully submitted that dependent claims 3 and 6 are distinguishable from Barrett and Sumner as applied by the Examiner for at least the reasons previously described.

Claims 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Barrett et al. and Sumner et al.

It is also respectfully submitted that independent claim 7 is distinguishable from Barrett and Sumner as applied by the Examiner for reasons similar to or somewhat similar to those previously described with regard to claim 1. Claim 9 is dependent from independent claim 7. Accordingly, it is also respectfully submitted that dependent claim 9 is distinguishable from Barrett and Sumner as applied by the Examiner for at least the reasons previously described.

New dependent claims 13-15 are presented herein. Such new claims set forth features which are respectfully submitted are not specifically disclosed in the portions of Barrett and Sumner relied on by the Examiner.

As it is has been submitted that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been overcome, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is

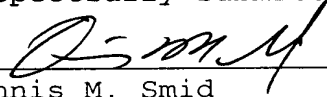
respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections or rejections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By


Dennis M. Smid

Registration No.: 34,930

LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,

KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP

600 South Avenue West

Westfield, New Jersey 07090

(908) 654-5000

Attorney for Applicant